

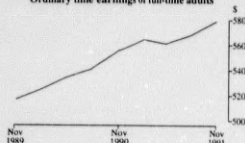
Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 2 April 1992

The week in statistics ...

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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
Ordinary time earnings of full-time adults



Final average weekly earnings figure for November

Average weekly ordinary time earnings of full-time adults were \$578.80 in November 1991, up by 2.0 per cent from \$567.70 in August 1991.

The increase in ordinary time earnings for full-time adult males was 2.1 per cent (to \$612.20) while full-time adult females showed an increase of 1.6 per cent (to \$514.80).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, NOVEMBER 1991
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	August 1991	November 1991
New South Wales	631.30	523.80	594.40	2.2	4.7
Victoria	610.80	521.30	580.20	2.3	4.1
Queensland	574.50	480.00	542.40	2.3	3.0
South Australia	587.10	519.80	565.80	2.7	5.3
Western Australia	620.90	503.80	579.70	-0.1	4.3
Tasmania	572.40	494.60	547.30	-0.1	3.0
Northern Territory	640.30	530.30	595.70	1.1	4.8
Australian Capital Territory	703.90	575.70	653.20	2.0	4.0
Australia	612.20	514.80	578.80	2.0	4.2

Average weekly ordinary time earnings for the public sector showed a 2.4 per cent increase for full-time adults to \$615.80, up from \$601.50 in August 1991. The private sector showed an increase of 1.9 per cent to \$560.10, up from \$549.90 in August for the same category of employees.

Average weekly total earnings for full-time adults increased by 2.3 per cent to \$610.70 during the quarter, a 3.4 per cent increase since November 1990.

The estimates were affected by the flow through of the April 1991 National Wage Case, changes in the composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force and by the increase in overtime payments, mainly for full-time adult males.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0), or contact Mick Atkinson (06) 252 6571.

Fall in overtime and over-award pay

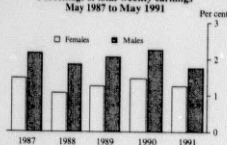
Overtime pay declined by 8.4 per cent in the twelve months to May 1991, with the manufacturing industry being the most affected.

Full-time adult non-managerial males and females earned, on average, \$55.10 and \$11.30 per week respectively in average weekly overtime payments in May 1991. The corresponding figures in May 1990 were \$60.30 for males and \$12.00 for females.

In the manufacturing industry the fall in overtime earnings was 20.1 per cent. For all other industries in total, overtime earnings fell 1.1 per cent.

Continued ...

OVER-AWARD PAY
Percentage of total weekly earnings
May 1987 to May 1991



The survey found that over-award pay also declined in the twelve months to May 1991 for full-time adult non-managerial employees. Males received an average of \$10.90, down \$2.10 from May 1990, while females earned \$6.70, a decrease of \$0.20 over the same period.

Falls in average weekly over-award pay were evenly distributed across all industries for males, while for females the decrease occurred mainly in the manufacturing industry. Over-award pay in manufacturing fell 19.9 per cent for males and 28.9 per cent for females. Total non-manufacturing fell 11.8 per cent for males and increased 8.9 per cent for females.

In May 1991, overtime pay accounted for 7 per cent, and over-award pay for nearly 2 per cent of the average weekly total earnings for full-time adult non-managerial employees.

COMPOSITION OF AVERAGE EARNINGS, MAY 1991
Full-time adult non-managerial employees
Dollars

Average weekly earnings	Males	Females	Persons
Ordinary time earnings	540.50	487.20	521.20
Award or agreed base rate of pay	521.70	478.60	506.10
Payment by measured result	7.90	1.90	5.80
Over-award pay	10.90	6.70	9.40
Overtime earnings	55.10	11.30	39.30
Total earnings	595.60	498.50	560.50

For further information, order the publication *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia* (6306.0), or contact Regina Camara on (06) 252 5325.

Vehicle registrations still climbing

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations for February 1992 rose by 2.2 per cent over January. The trend estimate has shown a constant monthly increase of 2.2 per cent since November 1991 after recording smaller increases in the previous two months. Passenger vehicles showed a rise of 2.0 per cent in February 1992.

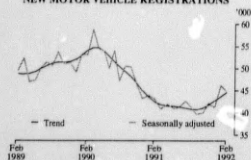
Passenger vehicle registrations have been increasing since August 1991, and since November 1991 have been increasing by approximately 2.0 per cent per month. 'Other' vehicles showed an increase of 3.1 per cent and have also been increasing since September, more rapidly than passenger vehicles.

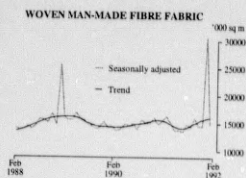
In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 3.5 per cent in February 1992. Passenger vehicles declined by 3.2 per cent and 'other' vehicles fell 5.2 per cent.

In original terms, total new motor vehicle registrations increased by 7.3 per cent in February 1992 to 41,089 vehicles. Passenger vehicles recorded a rise of 6.6 per cent to 34,415 vehicles and 'other' vehicles showed an increase of 11.2 per cent to 6,674 vehicles.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary* (9301.0), or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS





Manufacturing in February ...

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)* contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the January issue it was noted that for some commodities, larger than normal production had taken place in that month. Special cautionary notes advised readers that in previous instances of extraordinarily large and abrupt increases, activity had subsequently returned to previous levels.

The series which were of particular concern were electric motors, cars and station wagons, cotton yarn, woven cotton fabric, woven man-made fibre fabric and textile floor coverings.

As can be seen from the February data in the table below, this has in fact occurred for all the series of concern. As a result the percentage change between January and February show a marked decline for those series.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, FEBRUARY 1992
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

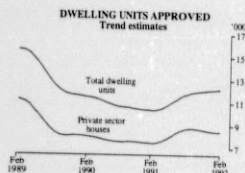
Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-6.5	48.3
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	4.2	19.0
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	-3.0	17.7
Television sets	33.4	14.9
Other confectionery	-11.9	10.0
Iron and steel in ingots or other primary forms	-6.2	9.0
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	6.2	8.5
Gas available for issue through mains	-4.4	5.2
Electricity	-0.4	0.7
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	-1.7	0.0
Wool yarn	-24.2	-0.7
Textile floor coverings	-29.3	-0.9
Clay bricks	6.8	-2.4
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	-36.5	-2.8
Electric motors	-31.1	-3.3
Woven man-made fibre fabric	-51.6	-4.4
Sulphuric acid; oleum	1.7	-6.2
Portland cement	-2.3	-8.0
Beer	-0.2	-9.7
Cotton yarn	-51.0	-9.8
Cigarettes and tobacco	-17.3	-9.9
Domestic clothes washing machines	-39.9	-11.0
Chocolate based confectionery	-11.1	-14.7
Domestic refrigerators	-30.1	-14.8
Cars and station wagons	-32.6	-15.4

Growth in housing approvals slows

The total number of dwelling units approved in February 1992 fell by 7.4 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms following two successive months of growth.

Private sector house approvals rose by 4.7 per cent in February, following a marginal increase in January. Seasonally adjusted data are not separately available for the number of private sector other residential dwellings approved, or for public sector approvals. However, the strong growth in these sectors evident in the previous two months, which was largely responsible for the improvement in total approvals, was not sustained in February 1992.

The trend series for total dwelling unit approvals continues to show weak growth, but a further fall in approvals in March would see the trend showing some signs of turning down. The increase in the seasonally adjusted number of private sector houses approved in February has slowed the decline evident in that trend series over the last five months. Similar levels of private sector house approvals in March 1992 would see the trend flatten out.



DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, FEBRUARY 1992

	Number	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Private sector houses —			
Original	8,223	14.0	18.6
Seasonally adjusted	8,772	4.7	17.0
Total dwelling units —			
Original	11,453	8.0	16.2
Seasonally adjusted	11,882	-7.4	13.8

The trend series for the value of new residential building approved continues to display very gradual growth. The trend in the value of total building approved is also rising slowly. The separate trend series for non-residential building approved is only available to November 1991 and continued to decline to that point, however there are some indications that the rate of decline is slowing.

VALUE OF BUILDING APPROVED, FEBRUARY 1992

	\$ million	Percentage change	
		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
New residential building —			
Original	917.7	8.0	14.6
Seasonally adjusted	957.1	-7.5	12.3
Total building —			
Original	1,555.4	-1.4	-18.8
Seasonally adjusted	1,750.9	-0.8	-18.9

Building material prices — annual rates continue to fall

The annual rate of change for prices of materials used in building fell in January 1992, continuing the general downward trend observed since late 1988 and surpassing the record low annual rates of recent months.

Between January 1991 and January 1992 prices of materials used in house building decreased 0.7 per cent, while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 0.1 per cent in the same period.

In terms of monthly movement, the prices of materials used in house building were unchanged between December 1991 and January 1992 with decreases for a range of items being offset by increases in other items.

Prices of materials used in other forms of building, decreased by 0.2 per cent between December and January with ready mixed concrete being the main contributor to the decrease.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JANUARY 1992
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.1	-1.0	0.0	1.1
Melbourne	-0.1	-1.7	-0.4	-2.1
Brisbane	0.3	1.3	-0.1	2.6
Adelaide	-0.9	-1.5	-0.2	-0.2
Perth	-0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.5
Hobart	0.2	2.8	0.1	3.0
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	0.1
Darwin	— Not available —		0.5	3.5
Canberra	0.2	2.3	-0.2	1.8

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

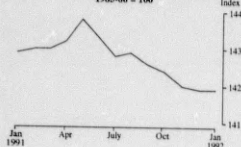
Small fall in manufacturing material prices

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries fell by 0.2 per cent between December 1991 and January 1992; prices of home produced materials fell by 0.8 per cent while imported materials increased by 0.6 per cent.

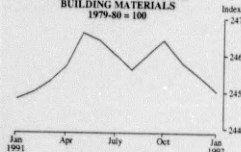
The decrease in home produced materials was caused mainly by lower prices for crude petroleum, partly offset by higher prices for live animals.

Continued ...

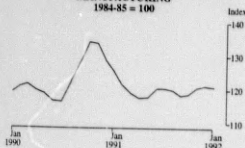
PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN
MANUFACTURING
1984=100



The increase in imported materials was caused by higher prices for a number of items including machinery and equipment components, chemicals and chemical based materials, other manufactured materials and textiles. The fall in prices for imported crude petroleum and condensates partly offset these increases.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING,
JANUARY 1992
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.6	-2.0
Home produced	-0.8	-4.6
All manufacturing	-0.2	-3.7

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Industrial disputes at 30-year low

In December 1991 there were 43 disputes reported in progress involving 7,700 employees with the loss of 10,400 working days. The number of disputes was the lowest recorded for a month since December 1961 (35) while the number of employees involved and working days lost was the lowest since January 1962 (5,200 and 9,100 respectively).

The manufacturing industry (other than metal products, machinery and equipment) reported no lost working days, the lowest for this industry since monthly records were first compiled for separate industries in January 1964.

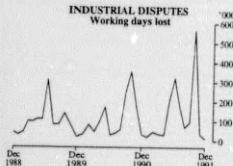
The transport, storage and communication industry reported 100 working days lost — also the lowest number since January 1964.

Victoria reported 900 working days lost, the lowest for that State since the relevant monthly records were first compiled in January 1964, while South Australia reported no lost working days, the lowest for this State since December 1968.

In the twelve months ending December 1991 the following are noteworthy:

- Tasmania recorded 4,400 working days lost, the lowest for this State for any twelve months since the relevant series commenced in December 1981;
- The Australian Capital Territory recorded 2,300 working days lost, the lowest for the Territory since the twelve months ended May 1984 (1,900);
- Victoria recorded 127 working days lost per thousand employees, the lowest twelve month figure for the State since that series began in December 1981; and
- Tasmania recorded 29 working days lost per thousand employees, the lowest for this State on record.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
Working days lost



Synopsis of articles, March 1992

5 March 1992

Current account deficit widens

The seasonally adjusted deficit of Australia's balance of payments current account widened by \$262 million to \$861 million in January 1992.

Prices of house building materials fall below 1990 level

Prices of materials used in house building decreased by 0.1 per cent from December 1990 to December 1991, while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 0.7 per cent over this period.

Foreign liabilities rise again

Net foreign liabilities at 31 December 1991 totalled \$194,273 million. This was an increase of \$5,016 million or 2.7 per cent on the position at the end of the September quarter 1991.

New vehicle sales accelerate

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations for January 1992 rose by 1.9 per cent, the largest of four consecutive rises since September 1991.

Prices of manufacturing materials up

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries rose by 0.5 per cent between November and December 1991; prices of home produced materials increased by 0.6 per cent while imported materials increased by 0.5 per cent.

Business stock falls arrested, but manufacturers' sales still weak

The value of stocks held by private businesses was virtually unchanged between 30 September and 31 December 1991 after accounting for seasonal influences and price changes.

Profits recover some lost ground

Company profits before income tax were 3 per cent higher in the December quarter 1991 than in the September quarter in seasonally adjusted terms.

One strike sends days lost from industrial disputes to 10-year high

The estimated number of working days lost through industrial disputes reached 563,300 in October 1991. This is the highest recorded for a single month since November 1981 (944,500). The majority of the days lost (92.4%) were as a result of the general strike in New South Wales called to protest against the introduction of new industrial relations legislation.

12 March 1992

Significant growth in total dwelling unit approvals

The total number of dwelling units approved in January 1992 rose by 5.4 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms following a 7.1 per cent rise in December 1991.

Sharp increase in number of discouraged jobseekers

The number of discouraged jobseekers at September 1991 was 138,200, an increase of 37 per cent compared with September 1990.

Average earnings edge ahead

Average weekly ordinary time earnings increased by 2.2 per cent for full-time adults between August and November 1991, according to preliminary estimates.

How manufacturing fared in 1991

With all monthly data in for calendar year 1991, it is now possible to present a broader view of how Australian manufacturing industries performed in that year compared with the previous calendar year. Of the twenty-seven indicator commodities most show that production levels in 1991 were well down on those recorded in 1990.

Continued ...

19 March 1992

Economy still weak in December quarter

The three detailed measures of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) together indicate that the economy remained weak in the December quarter 1991.
 Average of GDP measures — up 0.3 per cent
 Expenditure-based GDP — up 0.5 per cent
 Income-based GDP — up 0.4 per cent
 Production-based GDP — down 0.1 per cent

Retail trade levelling out

There was a rise of 3.8 per cent in the seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments for January 1992.

Male full-time employment falls

Seasonally adjusted employment decreased in February 1992 mainly due to a large fall in male full-time employment.

Australia's unemployment rates compared

In December 1991, Australia's unemployment rate of 10.6 per cent was the highest amongst eight major Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Slight fall in industrial production

Industrial production fell slightly (by 0.3%) in the December quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms.

Lower dollar boosts import prices again in December

The Import Price Index increased by 0.8 per cent in December 1991. The value of the Australian dollar continued to fall against the major trading currencies in December, contributing to increases for a wide range of components, the largest of which was machinery and transport equipment.

Housing starts maintain momentum

Total dwelling unit commencements rose for the third consecutive quarter in the December quarter 1991, in both original and seasonally adjusted terms.

26 March 1992

Manufactured goods prices still lower than one year earlier

Between January 1991 and January 1992 the price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry fell 0.3 per cent; the fourth successive month of negative annual change.

Export prices rise

Export prices rose 1.9 per cent between December 1991 and January 1992, the third small monthly rise in a row.

Housing finance drops in January

Seasonally adjusted housing finance commitments in January 1992 dropped by 7.1 per cent following two consecutive monthly increases.

Buoyant sales for table wines

Total wine sales in January 1992 were 25.9 million litres seasonally adjusted, a decrease of 6.2 per cent on December 1991, but the highest January figure since 1988.

The Top End is fit

A recent survey of urban Northern Territorians has found that they are more interested in exercise than other Australians. About three-quarters of Territorians were involved in at least one sport or physical activity during the twelve months to October 1991. This level of participation is slightly higher than that found in a similar survey for all Australians.

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

All the week's releases: 25 to 31 March

General

Publications Advice, 27 March 1992 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 31 March 1992 (1105.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 26 March 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
NIF-108 Model Data Base Manual, December Qtr 1991 (1340.0; free)
Australian Economic Indicators, March 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, March 1992 (1305.1; \$14.00)
Economic Indicators, NSW, March 1992 (1307.1; \$5.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., March 1992 (1303.2; \$10.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, March 1992 (1304.3; \$9.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, March 1992 (1303.4; \$9.50)

Census of Population and Housing

First Counts for Statistical Local Areas, Qld, 6 August 1991 (2701.3; \$20.00) — *new issue*
1991 Census — Census Counts: Selected Areas, NT, 6 August 1991 (2800.7; \$9.50) — *new issue*

Demography

Demography, Vic., 1990 (3311.2; \$27.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, January 1992 (5432.0; \$9.50)
Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure, December Qtr 1991 (5626.0; \$10.50)
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., February 1992 (5635.0; \$6.00)
Lease Finance, Aust., January 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)
Public Unit Trusts, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (5645.0; \$10.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., February 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)
Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., September Qtr 1991 (6248.0; \$16.00)
Participation in Education, Aust., September 1991 (6272.0; \$12.50)
(Previously: Labour Force Status and Educational Attendance, Aust.)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., November 1991 (6302.0; \$10.50)
Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Aust., May 1991 (6306.0; \$19.00)
Industrial Disputes, Aust., December 1991 (6321.0; \$10.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, January 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, January 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., January 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)

Agriculture

Livestock Products, Aust., February 1992 (7215.0; \$7.50)
Livestock and Livestock Products, WA, 1990-91 Season (7221.5; \$16.00)
Summary of Crops, WA, 1990-91 Season (7330.5; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., February 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, January 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)
Building Approvals, Aust., February 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)
Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., December Qtr 1991 (8762.0; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, Vic., February 1992 (8731.2; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, WA, February 1992 (8731.5; \$10.50)
Building Approvals, SA, February 1992 (8731.4; \$10.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Tas., December Qtr 1991 (8635.6; \$20.00)
Building Approvals, NT, February 1992 (8731.7; \$7.00)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., February 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., January 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., February 1992 (9303.6; \$5.50)

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties, Tas., December Qtr 1991 (9405.6; \$6.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 14 April 1992

April

- 1 Balance of Payments, Australia, February 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)
- 2 Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, February 1992 (6354.0; \$12.00)
- 3 Import Price Index, Australia, January 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 9 The Labour Force, Australia, March 1992 Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, March 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- 10 Retail Trade, Australia, February 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 31 March 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 91)*	-11.4	-19.5	-15.7	1.3	-11.6	-24.0	n.a.	n.a.	-14.1
Retail turnover (Jan. 92) (trend estimate)	3.7	2.0	4.9	-0.8	6.9	3.7	n.a.	11.2	3.6
New motor vehicle registrations (Feb. 92)†	-4.1	14.4	5.6	1.6	10.1	8.4	30.1	-15.9	3.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Feb. 92)	13.0	10.0	29.2	-17.2	8.0	8.4	187.7	135.3	16.2
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Feb. 92)*	-1.0	-3.5	2.8	-3.8	-0.1	-2.6	5.7	-0.3	-1.1
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Nov. 91)	4.7	4.1	3.0	5.3	4.3	3.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 31 March 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	n.a.	64,075	0.3	-0.5
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Dec. qtr 91	6,253	5,696	-12.6	-17.7
Expected new capital expenditure — 1984-85 prices	"	Six months to June 92	4,921	4,487	-11.4	-14.5
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Jan. 92	11,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
— 1984-85 prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	7,642	7,853	3.8	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Feb. 92	17,320	15,356	-0.8	1.0
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Feb. 92	41,089	44,624	-3.5	3.8
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	11,453	11,882	-7.4	13.8
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	"	1,555	1,751	-0.8	-18.9
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Dec. qtr 91	36,551	34,813	-7.8	-16.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	25,418	24,215	-0.9	-3.4
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to June 92	69,535	n.a.	-1.0	-2.8
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Feb. 92	7,650.9	7,705.5	n.a.	-3.2
Unemployment rate †	%	"	11.5	10.5	-0.2	-1.1
Participation rate †	"	"	63.5	63.2	0.2	1.9
Job vacancies	'000	Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	-0.1	0.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.14	1.06	2.8	-27.0
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	217.7	1.06	-9.7	-15.1
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Jan. 92	120.9	n.a.	0.9	1.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Jan. 92	111.6	n.a.	-0.2	-3.7
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	n.a.	-0.2	-3.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Nov. 91	2,841	n.a.	-0.1	-0.3
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Jan. 92	578.80	n.a.	21.2	-17.9
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	7.55	n.a.	2.0	4.2
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise (e)	\$m	Jan. 92	10.10	n.a.	2.0	4.2
Imports of merchandise (e)	"	"	7.55	n.a.	0.70	-4.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c) (e)	"	"	4,375	4,483	-1.3	3.4
Balance of goods and services (c) (e)	"	"	4,023	4,002	1.6	-4.9
Balance on current account (c) (e)	"	"	352	481	-20.0	278.7
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	-1,028	-861	-38.0	n.a.
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Dec. 91	n.a.	97.1	-43.7	34.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	n.a.	n.a.	-2.9	-4.5
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	Jan. 92	0.7485	n.a.	2.7	7.6
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	55.4	n.a.	4.3	10.5
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitor arrivals (f)	'000	Dec. 91	267	188	-3.5	-3.8

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday 1 April 1992. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday 2 April 1992. NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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